

INDIAN RIDGE MARSH

This marsh is more natural in character than many of the other sites in the Calumet Open Space Reserve. Though the ecological quality is not great, about 60 acres of open water and wetland, and around 90 acres of upland create a diversity of habitats. Increasing this site's significance is the closeness of neighboring sites such as Big Marsh (site 6, p. 34), Deadstick Pond and Heron Pond (site 18, p. 49).

The marsh provides excellent habitat for a wide variety of wading birds, ducks and geese. The uplands provide nesting habitat for hawks and other birds. A family of muskrats make their home in the channel of water near the berm on the west end.

Ecological restoration, including control of purple loosestrife and planting of natives, is planned for the site. The City is in the process of acquiring the site.

Since 2000, Indian Ridge Marsh has been the preferred location for a large nesting colony of black-crowned night herons. (They moved out of Big Marsh when the water levels rose too high.) This is the largest nesting rookery for this species in the Upper Midwest; approximately 800 black-crowned night herons use the site. The species is on Illinois' endangered species list.



Indian Ridge Marsh



ADDRESS 12200 S Torrence Ave
OWNER City of Chicago
(acquisition underway)
ACREAGE 150.17

HABITATS
1 3 Wetland
2 4 Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS From Torrence Avenue, turn west on 122nd Street. Indian Ridge Marsh is on both sides of the road.

